

Big Hill Pond

Sustainability Features

Historical Significance

The earliest non-Native European Americans moved into the area in the 1820's and made their livelihood mainly from agricultural pursuits. Later, the railroad that runs through what is now the middle of the park provided a center of focus for the community. The Memphis to Charleston Railroad built in 1853, was a major East-West artery for commerce and travel through the southern states.

The area known as Big Hill Pond came about by the construction of the railroad. The Big Hill came from the railroad cutting through the hill and the Pond was created by scooping out fall dirt for the levee's across the creek bottoms. The area in and around Big Hill Pond State Park was home to many farming families homesteads over the years, a fireplace foundation from one such home can still be seen in the playground area.

Programs

The park offers several year-round and seasonal programs where visitors can learn about such things as reptiles, the history of Big Hill Pond, log rolling and backyard wildlife.

Attractions

A couple of interesting features in the park include the boardwalk and the fire tower. The boardwalk (pictured below) is a 0.8 mile raised wooden walkway that leads hikers through the scenic Dismal Swamp section of the park. The fire tower is a 70ft tall structure used by firepotters that has been reused and converted into an observation tower for visitors. The tower provides panoramic views of Travis McNatt Lake and the Dismal Swamp.



Park Highlights

- Visited by more than 230,000 people in 2011
- 30 miles of overnight and day use trails with four backpack trail shelters are available to hikers.
- Bike and horse riding is permitted on approximately 14 miles of shared trails

